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I.—A PHYSICAL INTRODUCTION

ROUMANIA owes its name to the rustic Latin speech of the Roman provincials of Moesia and Dacia, impressed on the region in a period before language had acquired its later powers of tenacious resistance to fundamental change. It is true that subsequent contacts gave the local language a large number, perhaps even a majority, of Slavonic words, emphasising the country's links with eastern Europe, but the associations with the west were actively revived in the nineteenth century, when there was also a reaction against the connecting of Roumania with its southern and south-western neighbours as a Balkan State as had seemed natural to those impressed by the results of Turkish rule. These varying links of Roumania are understandable from a study of its physical features. The eastern projecting arc of the Carpathian Mountains and the Transylvanian Alps is, physically, as well as in a large measure culturally, an eastward outpost of western Europe standing out as a mighty rampart over against the south Russian steppe and its continuation into the loess-floored Polish platform. The curve from the Transylvanian Alps southward past the Iron Gates also connects them with the Balkan peninsula.

CENTRAL EUROPE, farther west, includes broken remnants of old (Permo-carboniferous) mountain systems passing through south Ireland, south Wales and south England as well as through Brittany, the Ardennes and the Vosges to the hills of middle Germany between Hannover and Frankfürt-a-M. Brittany lies mainly at low levels but most of the other elements of this old system have been lifted again into the round-shouldered hills, sometimes with extensive remains of old plains now at considerable heights, and usually with deep-cut stream lines that have often worked their way along fault lines. To the south of this old mountain-system stand the Alps, some of which incorporate the results of refolding of older mountain fragments.

THE GREAT ARC of the Carpathians and Transylvanian Alps shows relationships with both these great schemes. Old, Permo-carboniferous mountain blocks were refolded in the upper Cretaceous and again in the early Tertiary period, in the latter of which the Transylvanian platform, between